

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 620

By Richardson

A RESOLUTION to designate October 1-7, 2012, as "Mental Illness Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe anxiety disorders, borderline personality disorder, and post traumatic stress disorders affect one in every four people annually; and

WHEREAS, misunderstandings exist about many mental illnesses and our social culture often wrongly imposes a stigma on them; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses are more common than cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, and are the number one reason for hospital admissions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, persons with a severe and persistent mental illness die, on average, twenty-five years earlier than the general population; and

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses have been scientifically proven to be highly treatable illnesses of the brain; and

WHEREAS, scientific research is producing tremendous breakthroughs in the understanding of mental illnesses, resulting in more effective treatments that allow people to reclaim full and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, mental health is an essential part of one's overall health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover from substance abuse and mental illness; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the citizens from across the State in recognizing October 1-7, 2012, as "Mental Illness Awareness Week" in Tennessee and encourage all

citizens to commemorate the week by increasing awareness and promoting mental health treatment and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.